

Press Release

Routt County Commissioners Enact Stage 1 Fire Restriction

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO, September 7, 2022 – Pursuant to Ordinance No. 2013-002, an ordinance to restrict fires in unincorporated portions of Routt County during periods of high fire danger, the Routt County Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to enact Stage 1 Fire Restriction **effective at 12:01 am, Thursday, September 8, 2022**, and will remain in effect until rescinded.

Fire restrictions are considered only when very high or extreme fire danger exists and is predicted to persist. This determination is based upon current conditions, long-term weather forecasts, and upon the heavy, dry fuel loading which creates the potential for uncontrollable fires.

Wildfires can affect entire communities by destroying homes and natural habitat and by killing wildlife, as well as creating widespread poor air quality, which can cause problems for people outdoors, particularly those with respiratory ailments. People must take all necessary safety precautions in wildlands and forests.

According to Undersheriff Doug Scherar, “we meet 5 of the 7 criteria in Zone Two and 4 of the 7 in Zone Three, it is time to put restrictions in place.” The restrictions will remain in effect until officials determine that conditions have changed sufficiently to reduce the risk of a human-caused wildfire. Rescinding the restrictions will be considered when the critical elements diminish.

“Federal, state, and local partners throughout the region study and discuss weekly several factors to determine when restrictions are recommended or necessary, such as moisture content of the fuels, current and forecasted weather conditions, and availability of suppression resources throughout the region. These factors and the associated criteria that are measured provide a more scientific and accurate process for determining when fire restrictions are necessary.” DeMorat noted that while not every agency in the region will enter fire restrictions together, they work to present a cohesive, coordinated approach to the action, ensuring geographic predictability across federal, state, county, and other unincorporated lands.

Should you have any questions, please call your Fire Protection District Chief or the Routt County Office of Emergency Management at (970) 870-5551. Find the detailed Declaration attached.

North Routt Fire Protection District

Mike Swinsick – (970) 879-6064

West Routt Fire Protection District

Trevor Guire – (970) 276-3511

Oak Creek Fire Protection District

Brady Glauthier – (970) 736-8104

Yampa Fire Protection District

Machia 'Ky' Cox – (970) 846-2169

Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue

Chuck Cerasoli – (970) 879-7170

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